

ABSTRACT

A system for removal and replacement of core I/O devices while the rest of the computer system is powered-up and operational. The system comprises a custom form-factor core I/O card that contains a plurality of I/O devices, including a processor for managing the card's I/O functions. A command is sent to an operating system, running on a system processor external to the core I/O card, that notifies the system to stop using, and de-configure, the hardware on the core I/O card. Once the OS receives this notification, an indication that the card is ready to be removed is sent to the user. The user then removes the card from its slot and inserts a replacement card into the same slot. The system software then discovers the I/O components on the core I/O card to determine what components are available, and then configures the new I/O device(s).